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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Masuhiro NAKATA et al.

Group Art Unit : 2878

Appl. No. : 10/778,023

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

Filed : February 17, 2004

Confirmation No. : 6180

For : FOCUS DETECTION DEVICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98,

Applicants hereby call to the Examiner's attention the following documents:

U.S. Patent No. 6,657,669 to SATO et al., which issued on September 2, 2003;

U.S. Patent No. 6,614,476 to SATO et al., which issued on December 2, 2003;

and

U.S. Patent No. 6,198,506 to NAKATA et al., which issued on March 6, 2001.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the U.S. patents are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. All of the documents have been listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form.

The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following co-pending, commonly assigned patent applications:

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/778,024 to NAKATA et al., entitled "Focus Detection Device," which was filed on February 17, 2004;

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/778,130 to NAKATA et al., entitled "Focus Detection Device," which was filed on February 17, 2004; and

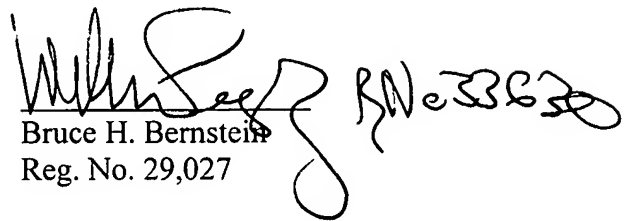
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/778,076 to NAKATA, entitled "Focus Detection Device," which was filed on February 17, 2004.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-noted applications are attached. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of these U.S. patent applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Masuhiro NAKATA


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May 18, 2004
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Application No.
10/778,023

Group
2878

(Use several sheets if necessary)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

DATE CONSIDERED

***EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.